

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program  
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,  
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

**Subregion:** SOUTH CENTRAL **County:** CALAVERAS

**Applicant:** CALAVERAS COUNTY

**Project Title:** CALAVERAS COUNTY CONSERVATION PLANNING PROJECT

**Reference Number:** SNC 070331

**PROJECT SCOPE**

The funding for the Calaveras County Conservation Planning Project will be used to develop applications requesting funds from the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) to develop a Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) and from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to develop a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). Specifically, Calaveras County will:

- Complete a study to address ecosystem, endangered species and habitat protection for incorporation into the General Plan Update;
- Develop a framework to define the preservation of open space and agricultural lands component of the ensuing HCP/NCCP;
- Compile findings into resources to be reviewed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors
- Initiate application process for DFG and FWS grant programs;
- Establish and initiate process for public input relative to applications for HCP and NCCP funding;
- Develop framework for the institution of a Science Panel per DFG and FWS requirements;
- Complete fundraising and capacity building plan and initiate the plan in anticipation of HCP and NCCP applications and associated processes;
- Finalize HCP and NCCP planning agreement with DFG and FWS;
- Develop, complete and submit applications for funding under the NCCP and HCP grant programs;
- Make finalized applications available to the Board of Supervisors for review and adoption.

The Calaveras County Board of Supervisors has expressed their support for this effort, and will review and adopt plans and applications associated with the grant as a means of advancing their pending General Plan Update.

**PROJECT SCHEDULE**

<b>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Initiate study to address ecosystem, endangered species and habitat protection for incorporation into General Plan Update	April 2008 – September 2008
Initiate development of framework to define the preservation of open space and agricultural lands component of the ensuing HCP/NCCP	April 2008 – September 2008
Complete and submit six-month progress report to SNC	October 2008
Continue work on initial study and framework including the incorporation of public input	October 2008 – December 2008
Compile findings into resources to be reviewed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors	January 2009 – April 2009
Complete and submit twelve-month progress report to SNC	April 2009
Initiate application process for DFG and FWS grant programs	April 2009
Establish process for public input relative to applications for HCP and NCCP funding	May 2009 – June 2009
Complete fundraising and capacity building plan in anticipation of	June 2009 – August 2009

HCP and NCCP applications and associated processes	
Finalize HCP and NCCP planning agreement with DFG and FWS	September 2009
Complete and submit eighteen-month progress report to SNC	October 2009
Develop and complete applications for funding under the NCCP and HCP grant programs	October 2009 – January 2010
Make finalized applications available to the Board of Supervisors for review and adoption	February 2010 – March 2010
Submit applications for funding under the NCCP and HCP grant programs	<b>March 2010</b>
<b>Final Report/Final Payment Request</b>	<b>April 2010</b>

### PROJECT COSTS

<b>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</b>	<b>TOTAL SNC FUNDING</b>
Consultant costs for HCP and NCCP development and submittal	\$22,000
Preparation of DFG and FWS Planning Agreements	\$4,000
Consultant costs to initiate Public Participation component of plans	\$10,000
Consultant costs for development and coordination of Science Panel	\$8,000
Staff costs for development of fundraising plan	\$2,000
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$46,000</b>

**Letters of Support:**

None Submitted

**Recommendation:**

Recommend funding this project for the requested amount of \$46,000.

## Project Summary

Provide a summary (one-page maximum) that describes key elements of the project and states the total project cost.

Please type here: (SNC 070331 Calaveras County Conservation Planning Project) In response to ongoing growth pressures within Calaveras County, and as an attempt to reconcile the County's growth and development policies with its goals for the preservation of agricultural lands, protection of open space and habitat areas and improved species conservation, Calaveras County is studying the feasibility and efficacy of developing a federal Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) concurrent with a California Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP).

HCP's and NCCP's have proven to be successful planning tools to conserve natural communities at the ecosystem scale while accommodating compatible land uses. The plans seek to anticipate and prevent the controversies and gridlock caused by endangered species' listings by focusing on the long-term stability of wildlife and plant communities, and by including key stakeholder interests in the process. By creating an HCP/NCCP for Calaveras County, the County will address the need for broad-based planning that provides for the protection and conservation of the region's biodiversity and working landscapes while allowing for appropriate development and growth to occur.

In order to initiate this type of habitat conservation planning for Calaveras, the County is seeking an initial investment of funding to reconcile the legal and procedural requirements of state and federal endangered species laws and California's Natural Community Conservation Planning Act with the County's General Plan Update process that was initiated in late 2006. The specific goals of this project include:

- Prepare a feasibility study that addresses ecosystem, endangered species and habitat protection issues in an integrated fashion with the Calaveras County General Plan Update
- Develop a framework that illustrates how preservation of open space and agricultural lands, as identified in the 2007 Calaveras County General Plan Update Baseline Report and the 2007 Final Report of the Calaveras County Parks and Recreation Task Force can be achieved through preparation and adoption of an HCP/NCCP
- Develop a framework that illustrates how preparation and adoption of an HCP/NCCP will help protect other natural resources such as water quality, watersheds and the County's rivers, lakes and streams
- Develop a framework that illustrates how preparation and adoption of an HCP/NCCP will help reserve the natural and cultural heritage of Calaveras County
- Provide a framework to identify and secure sufficient funding for Calaveras County's efforts to develop a habitat conservation plan/natural community conservation plan

The County is requesting \$46,000.00 in funding from the SNC, and has forecast a total of \$200,000 for completing Phase One of this effort.